

THE TYPIFICATION OF XANTHOCEPHALUM (COMPOSITAE)

OTTO. T. SOLBRIG

The genus *Xanthocephalum* was described by Willdenow in 1807 (Ges. Naturf. Fr. Berlin Mag. 1:140. 1807) based on material collected and described by Humboldt. In the original description, which was very short and not diagnostic of any species, no specific name was given. Kunth (Humboldt, Bonpland and Kunth, Nov. Gen. et Sp. Pl. 4:310. 1820) referred the species *X. centauroides* (without a description) to Willdenow's description, stating that he had not seen any material of it. This is the first specific epithet ascribed to *Xanthocephalum*, and was considered by me (Rhodora 63:151-164. 1961) as the type species. Nevertheless, in the same work Kunth described the new genus *Xanthocoma* with one species *X. humile* HBK. (= *Xanthocephalum humile* (HBK.) Sch. Bip. ex Hemsley), and re-described *X. centauroides* as *Pyrethrum bonplandianum* Kunth. Since I was unable to see type material there was some doubt as to the identity of *X. centauroides*. Furthermore, there was the possibility, in case no original material was extant, that *Xanthocephalum* would have to be abandoned as a "nomen confusum" and have to be replaced by *Xanthocoma*.

During the last summer I had an opportunity to visit and study at the Botanisches Museum in Berlin-Dahlem¹ where the Willdenow herbarium is deposited. In it a specimen (see Fig. 1) of *Xanthocephalum* (Willdenow no. 16523), collected by Humboldt is preserved. In the upper left hand corner is the annotation of Willdenow (see Schlechtendahl, Flora 15:561-567. 1832) "Syngenesia frustranea, *Xanthocephalum centauroides*, Habitat in Mexico." In addition, in the lower right hand corner is stated "Humboldt W," pre-

¹I want to thank the Botanical Society of America and the National Science Foundation for a travel grant. I also want to thank very particularly Dr. W. Domke, for all the help while in Berlin and for the photograph of the type of *Xanthocephalum*.

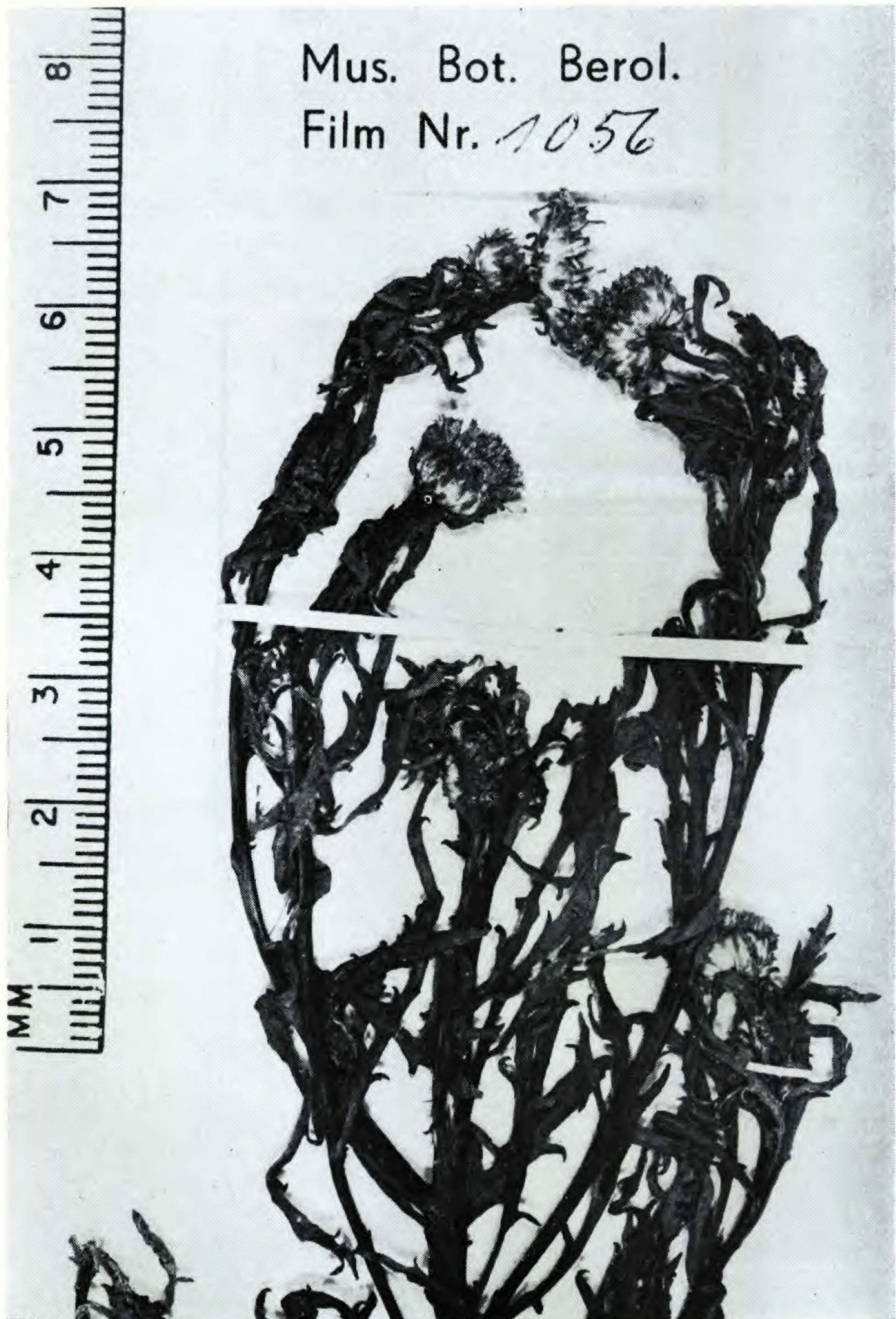


Plate 1311

Fig. 1. Detail of the type specimen of *X. centauroides* (Willdenow no. 16523, B)

See No. 771 p. 313
for corrections

sumably copied from the back of the original sheet, where Willdenow used to write the procedence of his material (see again Schlechtendahl, 1832). There is also a copy of the original diagnosis affixed after Willdenow's death by Schlechtendahl, and a later annotation by Schulz-Bipontinus, where *Xanthocephalum* (Pyrethrum) *bonplandianum* (HBK.) DC is equated to *X. centauroides*. A last annotation "Pyrethrum Bonplandianum Kunth" could not be traced to its author.

It is clear, that this specimen is the type of *Xanthocephalum centauroides* Willd. ex HBK. (Nov. Gen. et Sp. 4:312. 1820), and that this is the type species of the genus as I had concluded in my previous work. Furthermore, it confirms *Xanthocoma* as a generic synonym provided *X. humile* is considered a member of *Xanthocephalum*.

GRAY HERBARIUM, HARVARD UNIVERSITY